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Control: 811
Rec'd: February 2, 1954
2:32 p.m.

FROM: Mexico City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 824, February 2

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
FEB 3 - 1954

SENT DEPARTMENT 824 REPEATED INFORMATION GUATEMALA CITY BY POUCH.

Guatemalan allegation international plot to overthrow government hit front pages all major papers January 30. Streamer headlines over wire agency stories from Guatemala appeared EL UNIVERSAL, NOVEDADES and EL NACIONAL, reading in that order, "supposed international conspiracy against Guatemalan Government"; "Guatemala denounces plot sponsored by United States, Washington denies it"; and "Guatemala reveals preparations for invasion to overthrow its government". Two papers published, at end news stories, denial by US State Department "spokesman". Following day official US denial and countercharge appeared all front-pages but only EL UNIVERSAL used it as main story under streamer "Guatemalan accusation ridiculous and false says United States".

Pro-Communist EL POPULAR went to press too early January 30 to report Guatemalan charge but next day ran headline "plot against Guatemala will be proved" and referred in body of story to anticipated public statement February 2 by Guatemalan Ambassador to Mexico. By Monday February 1, Guatemalan plot affair relegated inside-pages most papers but on February 2 some papers featured Nicaraguan, Salvadora[illegible]ials of involvement any anti-Guatemalan conspiracy.

EXCELSIOR's editorial February 1 (tran[illegible] full by Embassy to press USINFO New York City, with re[illegible] IPS Washington) received Guatemalan announcement of pl[illegible]pticism, proceeded to discuss evidences of Communis[illegible]tion in that country. Concluding that a "Red satura[illegible]s fallen on country," EXCELSIOR warned: "There is nothing more to be feared than an advance of Russian penetration in the heart of Spanish-America. If this becomes bully confirmed, we will deplore it because Guatemala is worthy of a better fate and because all neighboring countries will be constantly menaced by contamination."

NOVEDADES editorial February 1 regretted that Guatemalan plot

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plot charge undermined "frank understanding that must exist between American nations." Referring to Guatemalan "proofs" of conspiracy, paper commented: "It appears to us, taking everything into consideration, that there is in it (the charge) an astonishing over-abundance of proofs and that often those who try to prove too much, in reality prove nothing." On same editorial page, contributed article by Manual Gonzalez Ramirez described past omnipotence of United Fruit and said Guatemala now paying price of the struggle. While outcome struggle in doubt, Ramirez hoped it would be in favor "nationalistic Guatemala". Novedades staff columnist Elvira Vargas also differed with papers editorial view. Referring to Guatemalan charge and US denial, Vargas commented: "Is it necessary to ask which government speaks the truth?" Writer pointed out Guatemalan Government expropriated United Fruit some of whose stockholders are "official members of the Government of Uncle Sam. Doesn't it seem to you that this fact is very eloquent?"

Contributed article in EL POPULAR February 1 bitterly attacked Somoza and US and warned "the aggressors will face all the people of the continent. Guatemala is not alone."

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